

CASE 5651: BURMAH OIL & GAS CO. FOR
AN UNORTHODOX GAS WELL LOCATION,
EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

CASE NO.

5651

APPLICATION,
TRANSCRIPTS,
SMALL EXHIBITS,
ETC.

BEFORE THE
NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Santa Fe, New Mexico
March 31, 1976

EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of Burmah Oil & Gas Co.) CASE
for an unorthodox gas well location,) 5651
Eddy County, New Mexico.)

BEFORE: Richard L. Stamets, Examiner

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

A P P E A R A N C E S

For the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission: William F. Carr, Esq.
Legal Counsel for the Commission
State Land Office Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico

For the Applicant: W. Thomas Kellahin, Esq.
KELLAHIN & FOX
Attorneys at Law
500 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, New Mexico

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General Court Reporting Service
825 Calle Mejia, No. 122, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
Phone (505) 982-9212

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2 MR. CARR: Case 5651, application of Burmah Oil and
3 Gas Company for an unorthodox gas well location, Eddy County,
4 New Mexico.

5 MR. STAMETS: Call for appearances.

6 MR. KELLAHIN: Tom Kellahin of Kellahin and Fox,
7 Santa Fe, New Mexico, appearing on behalf of the applicant.
8 If the Examiner please, we would request that an order be
9 entered based upon the testimony presented before the Examiner
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11 called simply to correct an error in the advertisement.

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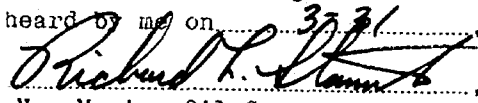
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, SIDNEY F. MORRISH, a Certified Shorthand Reporter,
do hereby certify that the foregoing and attached Transcript
of Hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission
was reported by me, and the same is a true and correct record
of the said proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skill and
ability.


Sidney F. Morrish, C.S.R.

i do hereby certify that the foregoing is
a complete record of the proceedings in
the Examiner hearing of Case No. 5657,
heard by me on 3/31/1976.
, Examiner
New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission

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BEFORE THE
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Santa Fe, New Mexico
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Application of Burmah Oil & Gas Co.
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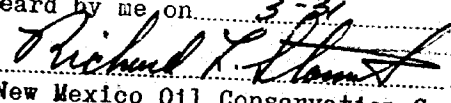
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New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission

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BEFORE THE
NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Santa Fe, New Mexico
March 17, 1976

EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of Burmah Oil & Gas Co. for) CASE
an unorthodox gas well location,) 5651
Eddy County, New Mexico.)

BEFORE: Daniel S. Nutter, Examiner

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2 MR. CARR: Case 5651, application of Burmah Oil &
3 Gas Co. for an unorthodox gas well location, Eddy County,
4 New Mexico.

5 MR. NUTTER: Let the record show that in this
6 particular case there has been an error in the advertisement
7 which we attempted to correct in the newspaper, however, it
8 was not possible and the location as advertised was in Township
9 23 South, Range 28 East, rather than 24 South, 28 East, which
10 I think is the proper location of the well, so if we are
11 going to proceed with this case today, Mr. Kellahin, we will
12 have to readvertise the case.

13 MR. KELLAHIN: Yes, I understand.

14 (THEREUPON, the witness was duly sworn.)

15 MR. KELLAHIN: Tom Kellahin of Kellahin and Fox
16 appearing on behalf of Burmah Oil and Gas Company and I have
17 one witness who has just been sworn.

18
19 PHIL M. WHITSITT
20 called as a witness, having been first duly sworn, was
21 examined and testified as follows:

22
23 DIRECT EXAMINATION
24 BY MR. KELLAHIN:

25 Q Mr. Whitsitt, would you please spell your name for

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1 the Reporter?

2 A. W-h-i-t-s-i-t-t.

3 Q. And by whom are you employed and in what capacity?

4 A. I'm employed by Burmah Oil and Gas Company in the
 5 capacity of District Landman.

6 Q. Have you previously testified before this Commission?

7 A. No, I haven't.

8 Q. What is your educational background?

9 A. I have a B.B.A. degree and twelve years experience
 10 as a landman.

11 Q. Are you familiar with the facts surrounding this
 12 particular application by Burmah?

13 A. Yes.

14 MR. KELLAHIN: If the Examiner please, are the
 15 witness's qualifications to testify in this case acceptable?

16 MR. NUTTER: Yes, they are.

17 Q. (Mr. Kellahin continuing.) Mr. Whitsitt, would you
 18 refer to Exhibit Number One, identify it and state what
 19 Burmah is seeking?

20 A. Exhibit Number One is a plat showing Section 11,
 21 Township 24 South, Range 28 East, the west half of which we
 22 propose as a proration unit for a well at a location seventeen
 23 eighty from the south line and six sixty from the west line.

24 Q. What is the acreage to be dedicated to the well?

25 A. The west half of Section 11 will be dedicated to

1 the well.

2 Q Why are you seeking an unorthodox location?

3 A The orthodox location would be nineteen eighty from
4 the south and six sixty and this fell not only in the middle of
5 a property line but also an irrigation canal and we had to
6 move it, preferably to the south and we moved it just far
7 enough to the south to get the entire location on the one
8 piece of property.

9 Q So for topographical reasons you are seeking an
10 unorthodox location?

11 A For topographical reasons, yes.

12 Q And in your opinion, Mr. Whitsitt, is the proposed
13 location a satisfactory location from which to adequately
14 develop this unit?

15 A Yes, it is.

16 Q Would you describe who are the offsetting adjoining
17 operators?

18 A The surrounding acreage is owned by Burmah and
19 Phillips, along with the acreage for the proration unit.
20 Burmah has a farmout agreement from Phillips providing for
21 the drilling of this well.

22 Q What is the anticipated depth of the test well, do
23 you know?

24 A Approximately sixteen thousand, five hundred feet.

25 Q Okay.

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1 A. It will be a Morrow test.

2 Q. In your opinion will the approval of this application
3 be in the best interest of conservation, prevention of waste
4 and the protection of correlative rights?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Was Exhibit One prepared by you directly or compiled
7 under your direction and supervision?

8 A. Yes, it was.

9 MR. KELLAHIN: If the Examiner please, we move the
10 introduction of Exhibit One.

11 MR. NUTTER: Exhibit One in Case 5651 will be
12 admitted.

13 (THEREUPON, Applicant's Exhibit Number
14 One was admitted into evidence.)

15 MR. KELLAHIN: That concludes our direct examination.
16

17 CROSS EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. NUTTER:

19 Q. Mr. Whitsitt, as I understand it, the only way in
20 which this proposed location is non-standard is that it has
21 been moved two hundred feet to the south to clear the
22 irrigation canal, is that right?

23 A. This is correct.

24 MR. NUTTER: Are there any further questions of the
25 witness? He may be excused.

1 (THEREUPON, the witness was excused.)

2 MR. NUTTER: Do you have anything further, Mr.

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4 MR. KELLAHIN: No, sir.

5 MR. NUTTER: Does anyone have anything to offer in

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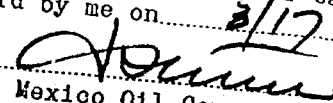
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Examiner
New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission

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Direct Examination by Mr. Kellahin

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Cross Examination by Mr. Nutter

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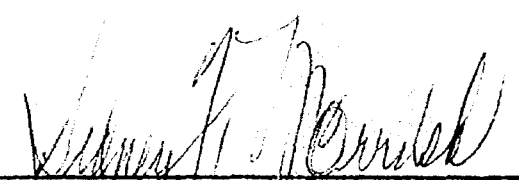
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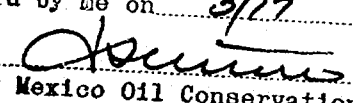
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, Examiner
New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission



BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION
COMMISSION OF NEW MEXICO FOR
THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 5651
Order No. R-5195

APPLICATION OF BURMAH OIL & GAS
CO. FOR AN UNORTHODOX GAS WELL
LOCATION, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on March 31, 1976, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner, Richard L. Stamets.

NOW, on this 20th day of April, 1976, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS:

(1) That due public notice having been given as required by law, the Commission has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.

(2) That the applicant, Burmah Oil & Gas Co., seeks approval of an unorthodox gas well location 1780 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the West line of Section 11, Township 24 South, Range 28 East, NMPM, to test the Morrow formation, Eddy County, New Mexico.

(3) That the W/2 of said Section 11 is to be dedicated to the well.

(4) That the unorthodox location is necessitated by reason of topography.

(5) That no offset operator objected to the proposed unorthodox location.

(6) That approval of the subject application will afford the applicant the opportunity to produce its just and equitable share of the gas in the subject pool, will prevent the economic loss caused by the drilling of unnecessary wells, avoid the augmentation of risk arising from the drilling of an excessive number of wells, and will otherwise prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

-2-
Case No. 5651
Order No. R-5195

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:


(1) That an unorthodox gas well location for the Morrow formation is hereby approved for a well to be located at a point 1780 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the West line of Section 11, Township 24 South, Range 28 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico.

(2) That the W/2 of said Section 11 shall be dedicated to the above-described well.

(3) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Commission may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year herein-
above designated.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION


PHIL R. LUCERO, Chairman

EMERY C. ARNOLD, Member


JOE D. RAMEY, Member & Secretary

S E A L

jr/

Dockets Nos. 12-76 and 13-76 are tentatively set for hearing on April 14 and 28, 1976. Applications for hearing must be filed at least 22 days in advance of hearing date.

DOCKET: EXAMINER HEARING - WEDNESDAY - MARCH 31, 1976

9 A.M. - OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM,
STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

The following cases will be heard before Richard L. Stamets, Examiner, or Daniel S. Nutter, Alternate Examiner:

CASE 5641: (Continued from March 17, 1976 Examiner Hearing)

Application of John Yuronka for salt water disposal, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to dispose of produced water by injection to the Queen formation through the open-hole interval from approximately 3800 to 3875 feet in his State JC "T" Well No. 1 located in Unit B of Section 16, Township 23 South, Range 36 East, Langlie-Mattix Pool, Lea County, New Mexico.

CASE 5651: (Continued & Readvertised)

Application of Burmah Oil & Gas Co. for an unorthodox gas well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for the unorthodox location of a Morrow test well to be drilled 1780 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the West line of Section 11, Township 24 South, Range 28 East, Eddy County, New Mexico, the W/2 of said Section 11 to be dedicated to the well.

CASE 5655: Application of Apollo Oil Company for salt water disposal, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to dispose of produced water into the lower Yates-Seven Rivers formation through the open-hole interval from 3289 to 3363 feet in its Brown Well No. 5, located in Unit E of Section 25, Township 25 South, Range 36 East, Jalmat Pool, Lea County, New Mexico.

CASE 5656: Application of David Fasken for an unorthodox location and simultaneous dedication, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for the unorthodox location of his Avalon Federal Com Well No. 2, to be drilled 660 feet from the South and West lines of Section 1, Township 21 South, Range 25 East, Catclaw Draw-Morrow Gas Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico, with all of said Section 1, a previously approved 854-acre non-standard gas proration unit, to be simultaneously dedicated to said well and to applicant's Avalon Federal Com Well No. 1, located in Unit P of said Section 1.

CASE 5657: Application of Inexco Oil Company for an unorthodox gas well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for the unorthodox gas well location of a well to be drilled 350 feet from the East line and 803 feet from the South line of Section 1, Township 21 South, Range 26 East, Burton Flat Field, Eddy County, New Mexico, the S/2 of said Section 1 to be dedicated to the well.

CASE 5658: Application of Inexco Oil Company for compulsory pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Pennsylvanian formation underlying the W/2 of Section 10, Township 21 South, Range 26 East, Avalon Field, Eddy County, New Mexico, to be dedicated to applicant's Inexco Federal-State Com Well No. 1-10, to be drilled at an orthodox location. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof, as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision. Also to be considered will be the designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well.

CASE 5659: Application of Texaco Inc. for downhole commingling, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to commingle Penrose Skelly Grayburg and Drinkard production in the wellbore of its Mittie Weatherly Well No. 1, located in Unit F of Section 17, Township 21 South, Range 37 East, Lea County, New Mexico.

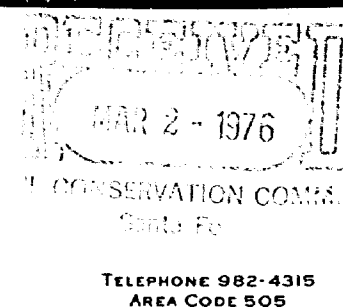
CASE 5660: Application of Exxon Corporation for a unit agreement, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for the Fairview Mills Unit Area comprising 3840 acres, more or less, of Federal and Fee lands in Township 25 South, Range 34 East, Lea County, New Mexico.

CASE 5661: Application of Randolph M. Richardson for a unit agreement, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for the CC Tank Unit Area comprising 10,550 acres, more or less, of Federal, State, and fee lands in Townships 19 and 20 South, Ranges 23 and 24 East, Eddy County, New Mexico.

JASON W. KELLAHIN
ROBERT E. FOX
W. THOMAS KELLAHIN

KELLAHIN AND FOX
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
500 DON GASPAR AVENUE
POST OFFICE BOX 1769
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

March 1, 1976



Case 5651

Mr. Bill Carr
New Mexico Oil Conservation
Commission
P. O. Box 2088
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Re: Burmah Oil and Gas Company

Dear Bill:

Please find enclosed Burmah's application for
unorthodox well location which has already been set
for hearing on March 17, 1976.

Very truly yours,


W. Thomas Kellahin

CC: Mr. Phil Whitsitt

WTK:kjf

Enclosure

RECEIVED
MAR 2 - 1923
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
SANTA FE, N.M.

BEFORE THE
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
BURMAH OIL & GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL
OF AN UNORTHODOX GAS WELL LOCATION,
EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

A P P L I C A T I O N

Comes now Burmah Oil and Gas Company and applies to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission for approval of an unorthodox well location in Eddy County, New Mexico, and in support thereof would show the Commission:

1. Applicant is the operator of the W/2, Section 11, Township 2⁴ South, Range 28 East, N.M.P.M., Eddy County, New Mexico.
2. Applicant proposes to drill a well to test the Morrow formation at a location 1780 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the West line of said Section.
3. A well located as proposed will recover gas that would not otherwise be recovered, is in the interest of conservation, and the protection of correlative rights.

WHEREFORE applicant prays that this application be set for hearing before the Commission and that after notice and hearing as required by law, the Commission enter its order approving the location as prayed for.

Respectfully submitted,
BURMAH OIL & GAS COMPANY

By W. J. Kellahin
KELLAHIN & FOX
P. O. Box 1769
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Attorneys for Applicant

RECEIVED
MAR 2 - 1976
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Santa Fe

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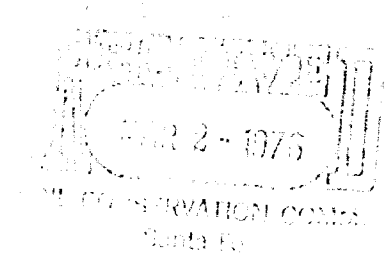
2. Applicant proposes to drill a well to test the Morrow formation at a location 1780 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the West line of said Section.

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Respectfully submitted,
BURMAH OIL & GAS COMPANY

By _____
KELLAHIN & FOX
P. O. Box 1769
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Attorneys for Applicant



BEFORE THE
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
BURMAH OIL & GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL
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WHEREFORE applicant prays that this application be set for hearing before the Commission and that after notice and hearing as required by law, the Commission enter its order approving the location as prayed for.

Respectfully submitted,
BURMAH OIL & GAS COMPANY

By _____
KELLAHIN & FOX
P. O. Box 1769
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Attorneys for Applicant

in

ESTON

JAR

Order No. R- 5195

ION

BY THE COMMISSION:

NOW, on this _____ day of March, 1976, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

(1) That due public notice having been given as required by law, the Commission has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.

(2) That the applicant, Burmah Oil & Gas Co., seeks approval of an unorthodox gas well location 1780 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the West line of Section 11, Township 24 South, Range 28 East, NMPM, to test the Morrow formation, Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico.

(3) That the W/2 of said Section 11 is to be dedicated to the well.

~~(4) That a well at said unorthodox location will better enable applicant to produce the gas underlying the proration unit.~~

~~OK → (5) That no offset operator objected to the proposed unorthodox location.~~

(4) That the unorthodox location is necessitated by reason of topography.

Case No. 5651
Order No. R-

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.

4 March 17th

unattended well location

Burnside Oil & Gas Co.

gas well Edley

location

W/2 Sec 11 (660 FWL
1780 TSL)

2 1/2 S R 28 E

E1

dedicate W/2

Morrow Trust

Tom Kellahin

Case 5651

↓ for probably
not final